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of too grave a character to be determined by a merely possible exposition; and, as in the discussion of biblical doctrines, no place or favor should be given to an imperious dogmatism. Nothing should be taken for granted, but every relevant consideration should be calmly weighed. Writers who indulge in frequent declarations of what a passage *must* mean, or of what it *cannot possibly* signify, and are wont to treat learned critics' views with contempt, are not the ones who command the confidence of the true scholar, however much he may admire their learning and ability. Hengstenberg and Ewald (*nomina venerabilia!*) represent two opposite extremes. Their invaluable contributions to biblical literature are everywhere acknowledged. But their opinions will probably have little weight with future generations of students just in proportion to the conspicuous dogmatism with which they were put forth. We can afford to wait a long time for the solution of some important questions of Criticism, but we cannot afford to rest complacently on any conclusion which has been reached through a dogmatic interpretation. Let us have, as far as possible, the exact truth, "though the heavens fall," for in that case the falling heavens will do us no harm.

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## THE USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL,—A SYMPOSIUM.

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### WHY THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE A PROMI- NENT PLACE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTRUCTION.

1. We shall find nothing that can take the place of the biographies of the Old Testament as a means of conveying religious truth attractively and impressively.
2. We shall find nowhere else the best instruction for nations, for social and political organisms. The New Testament addresses the individual, and reaches society as a whole only in that way. It discloses immortality and the kingdom of heaven. The Old Testament is full of instruction and of warning for the kingdoms of this world, whose life it would regulate and whose destiny it would shape as ending here.
3. The Psalter is behind us only in time; in spirit, as in expression, it must ever be the Psalm-book of the Church on earth.
4. Our grandest Christian enterprises still run largely in prophetic grooves. The patron saint of missions after all, is not St. John

or St. Paul, but the rapt Isaiah. It is his bugle that even now rallies and guides the Christian host.

5. The New Testament can never be fairly understood without the Old. We have a product. To know whence it is, is no small help toward appreciating the force of the promise it has for the future of man and of men.

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#### A MISTAKE TO EXCLUDE THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

It is my opinion that it would be a serious mistake to exclude the Old Testament from Sabbath school instruction or to disparage it as a factor in that instruction. Because

1. It is a part of the inspired Word of God, which has not been abolished nor superseded by the New Testament ; and as such it is pronounced by the apostle "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness." Even its typical rites and institutions, which have ceased to be obligatory as outward forms, point as directly as ever to their great Antitype, and in their substantial meaning are of permanent force and value.

2. The New Testament is throughout based upon the Old, and a knowledge of the latter is essential to a correct understanding of the former.

3. The elementary and preliminary character of the Old Testament adapts it in a remarkable degree for the instruction of the young, for whom its narratives have a special attraction, while its facts and institutions serve as object-lessons under proper teaching, and convey the truth more widely even than didactic statements.

4. The prevalent disposition to undervalue the Old Testament, and even to set aside its authority and historical character will be best counteracted by its more diligent and thorough study. The truth of God and his revelation is one in all ages and under both dispensations ; his Church is one ; true religion is the same and the method of salvation is the same. And it is very important that this unity should be perceived and the whole Bible be recognized as the standard of faith and the rule of duty.

5. Many prevalent errors and misconceptions are traceable to an undue neglect of the Old Testament. False views of the nature of salvation and an inadequate sense of man's absolute need of a divine Savior and his absolute dependence on divine grace result from a failure to emphasize the fall of man and the consequent corruption of the race